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December 9, 2003

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Docket: FCC Docket 02-55
(Improving Public Safety Communications in the 800 MHz Band)

Dear Chairman Powell:

It has come to our attention that in Michigan and across the United States, public safety officials are struggling with radio interference in the 800 MHz band. We collectively write today to express the urgency that a comprehensive solution be implemented to solve this dangerous impediment to our first responders. Police officials, firefighters, and EMS personnel devote their lives to protecting people; it is only appropriate to ensure safe and reliable communications to support their mission critical jobs.

There is a solution under the Commission's consideration that would permanently solve this hazardous problem of public safety interference. Called the "Consensus Plan" for its widespread support from the public safety community, this proposal would virtually eliminate interference and provide additional spectrum for public safety. Equally important, the Consensus Plan is fully funded – imposing no cost onto the public safety community or taxpayers.

The current practice of mitigation is a reactive and ineffective approach to the problem. Interference must be eliminated, not simply alleviated.

In these times of heightened security and alert, our first responders need the support of the FCC in resolving this critical issue. No one can argue that highly reliable communications for public safety professionals does not save lives. By approving the Consensus Plan, the FCC will be acting in the best interests of our society by placing public safety first.

Respectfully submitted,

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